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ABSTRACT

Noting that the after-school hours are peak hours for Illinois juveniles to be either victims of crime or involved in criminal activity, this report provides evidence that making quality after-school programs available to all youth who need them will reduce crime and provide constructive activities for youth. The report details statistics on arrests of or offenses by juveniles in Chicago and other Illinois cities on an hourly basis, illustrating that mid- and late-afternoon is the peak time for juvenile crime. Findings from various studies are summarized to illustrate that after-school programs reduce juvenile crime, drug use, smoking, drinking, teen sex, pregnancy, and truancy. The report notes that there are 2.19 million school-age children in Illinois, 70 percent of whom are in homes where both parents or the only parent are in the workforce. Despite three major funding sources for after-school programs in Illinois, there still is a huge unmet need. The report suggests improved coordination of existing funding sources at the local, state, and federal levels and increased financial commitment to after-school programs. The report closes with a call from the members of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Illinois to public officials to adopt a plan to close the after-school gap. (Contains 15 endnotes.) (KB)

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When the school bell rings... juvenile **crime** or **constructive** time?

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After-school programs are the answer.

A Report By
FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *ILLINOIS*

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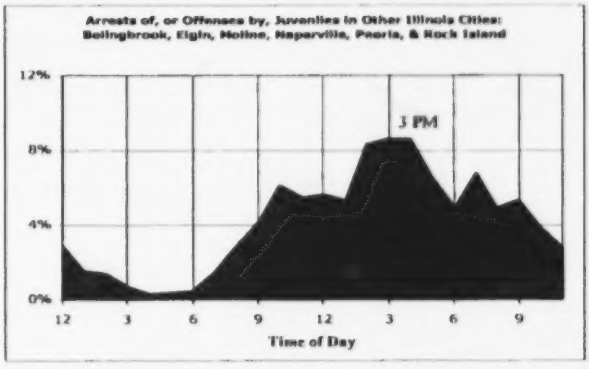
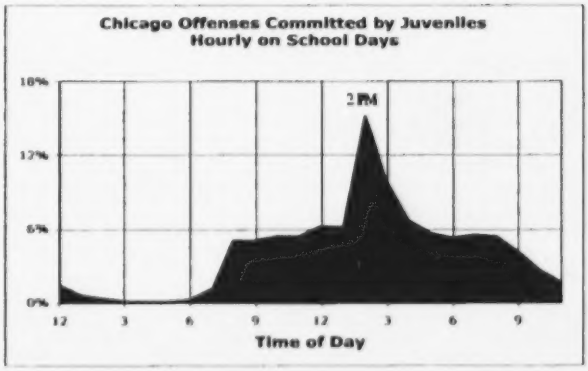
Prime Time for Juvenile Crime

From Carbondale to Chicago . . .

When the school bell rings hundreds of thousands of Illinois students hit the streets with no supervision or constructive activities. Crime data gathered by FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS from police departments throughout Illinois reveal the unfortunate consequences when kids have no place to go after school.[1]



On school days across Illinois, violent juvenile crime skyrockets when the school bell rings in the afternoon. This is the Prime Time for Juvenile Crime. These are also the peak hours for kids to be victims of violent crimes, to be in a car crash, and to experiment with cigarettes, alcohol, drugs, and sex.



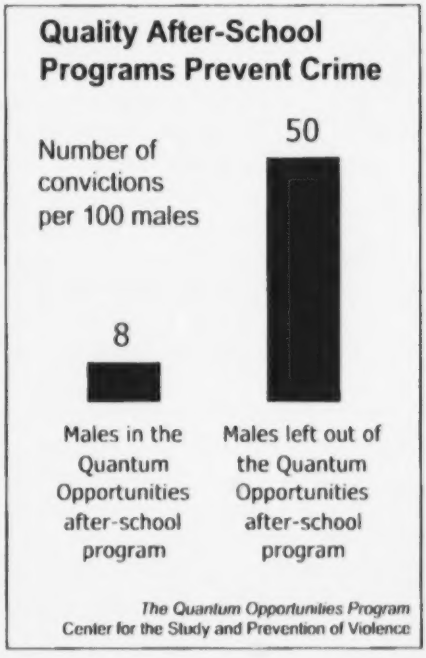
Question: How can the Prime Time for Juvenile Crime become a constructive time for kids and a safer time for our communities?

Answer: By making quality after-school programs available to all kids who need them.

"When we know the peak hours of violent crime are when the school bell rings, its just common sense to have in place after-school programs that can reduce delinquency and violent criminal behavior. Every family should have access to quality after-school programs that make our communities safer." - Roger Walker Jr.
Macon County Sheriff

Time for After-School Programs That Save Lives and Dollars

Quality after-school programs can cut crime and violence immediately and transform the hours after school into hours of academic enrichment, recreation, and community service. These programs also protect kids and adults from becoming victims of crime and cut teen pregnancy, smoking, and drug use. Years of rigorous research demonstrates results that cannot be dismissed:


Quality After-School Programs Prevent Crime
Number of convictions per 100 males
50
8
Males in the Quantum Opportunities after-school program
Males left out of the Quantum Opportunities after-school program
The Quantum Opportunities Program
Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence

- The Quantum Opportunities Program, in which high school freshmen from welfare families in four cities participated in an intensive after-school enrichment program, combined academics, personal development, community service, and monetary incentives to keep at-risk kids on the right track. Boys randomly assigned to participate in the Quantum Opportunities program as freshmen had only one-sixth as many criminal convictions during the next six years as the boys left out of the program.[2]

- A study of a 32-month after-school and summer skill-development program in a Canadian public housing project showed that, compared to the two prior years, the number of juvenile arrests declined by 75 percent during the course of the program.[3]

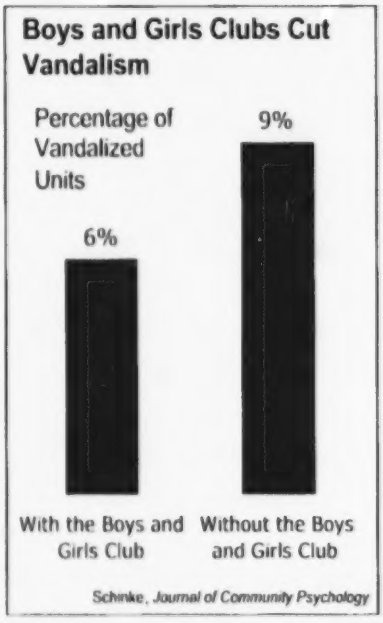
- A U.S. Department of Health and Human Services study found that, after controlling for a variety of factors, tenth graders who spent no time in school-sponsored extracurricular activities were 27 percent more likely to have been arrested than students who spent one to four hours in extracurricular activities.[4]

After-school programs REDUCE:

- Juvenile Crime
- Drug Use
- Smoking & Drinking
- Teen Sex & Pregnancy
- Truancy

- In the three years after Baltimore's Police Department opened a Police Activities League (PAL) after-school program in one high-crime neighborhood, juvenile crime in the neighborhood dropped nearly 10 percent and the risk of kids becoming crime victims was cut nearly in half. While juvenile victimization rates were coming down for all Baltimore juveniles, the rate in the area served by the PAL program came down nearly three times as fast as it did for the city as a whole.[5]

- Researchers compared five housing projects with new Boys and Girls Clubs to five housing projects without clubs. Levels of drug use and vandalism were initially the same. By the time the study ended, the projects without clubs had 50 percent more vandalized housing units and 30 percent more drug activity than those with new clubs.[6]


Boys and Girls Clubs Cut Vandalism
Percentage of Vandalized Units
6%
9%
With the Boys and Girls Club
Without the Boys and Girls Club
Schinke, Journal of Community Psychology

Investments in after-school programs pay for themselves many times over, not only in lives saved but in tax dollars saved. Every kid turned away from a life of crime spares potential victims and their families the agony caused by crime and violence, but also saves $1.7 to $2.3 million.[7] In fact, the Quantum Opportunities Program produced benefits to the public of more than $3 for every $1 spent on it, without even counting the savings from reductions in crime.[8]

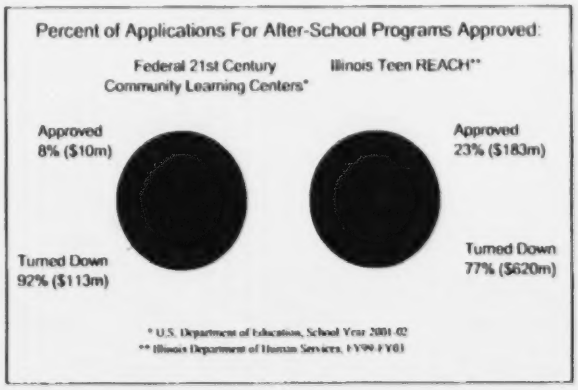
Will all after-school programs produce these results? Of course not. Quality program design and adequate numbers of caring, well-trained staff are essential. Studies like these show what good after-school programs can do.[9]

Question: If there are so many benefits to after-school programs, what is being done to get more school-age children into after-school programs?

Answer: The State of Illinois and the federal government have created several funding streams that support quality after-school programs. Yet the funding remains woefully inadequate to serve the many kids in need.

Time to Fill the After-School Gap

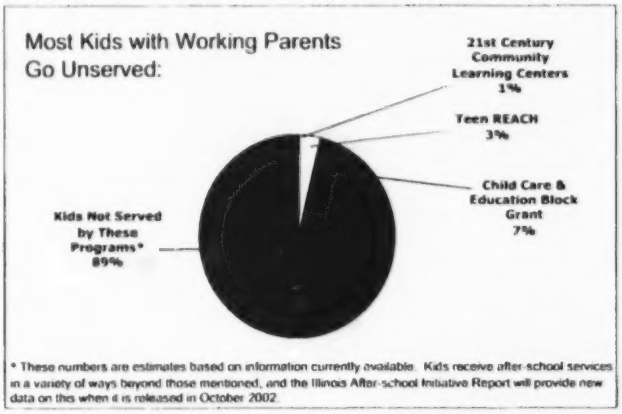
By any measuring stick, Illinois is a long way from providing after-school programs for all the kids who need them.


Percent of Applications For After-School Programs Approved:
Federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers*
Illinois Teen REACH**
Approved 8% ($10m)
Turned Down 92% ($113m)
Approved 23% ($183m)
Turned Down 77% ($620m)
* U.S. Department of Education, School Year 2001-02
** Illinois Department of Human Services, FY99-FY03

There are 2.19 million school-age children in Illinois between the ages of 6-17.[10] Seven of every 10 of these children are in homes where both parents, or the only parent, are in the workforce.[11] This leaves 1.53 million Illinois school-age children in need of constructive activities during those risky after-school hours.

Despite three major funding sources for after-school programs in Illinois, there still is a huge unmet need.

Federal 21st Century Community Learning Center grants help some communities provide quality after-school programs. But funding is so far from meeting the demand that most applications are turned down. Of the 123 applicants for the 2001-2002 school year, only 10 grants were awarded and only 7,749 kids were served.[12]


Most Kids with Working Parents Go Unserved:
21st Century Community Learning Centers 1%
Teen REACH 3%
Child Care & Education Block Grant 7%
Kids Not Served by These Programs* 89%
* These numbers are estimates based on information currently available. Kids receive after-school services in a variety of ways beyond those mentioned, and the Illinois After-school Initiative Report will provide new data on this when it is released in October 2002.

Illinois' own impressive Teen REACH program serves 50,000 kids, yet the program is still very under-funded. Since it's inception in 1999, Teen REACH has been able to fund less than a quarter of the programs that applied.[13]

The federal/state Child Care and Development Block Grant fund provides modest tuition help for after-school child care to some low- and moderate-income working parents. This program reached 103,207 school age kids last year, but it is so under-funded that it assists only one in four eligible children in Illinois, and all teens are excluded.[14]

The combined numbers of kids served by these three programs in a year in Illinois is 160,956. Even counting local, private and nonprofit programs, Illinois still does not come close to filling the after-school gap.[15] Many local communities recognize the value of quality after-school programs and have struggled to secure funding, but there just are not enough resources to fulfill the need.

Question: How can the current after-school system in Illinois be expanded to serve more kids and fill the after-school gap?

Answer: A lot can be accomplished with improved coordination of existing funding sources at the local, state, and federal levels, but the bottom line is that both the state and federal governments need to increase their financial commitment to after-school programs.

Time to Invest in After-School Programs

Government's most fundamental responsibility is to protect the public safety. That responsibility simply cannot be met unless communities are provided with the resources to assure that all families, especially those most at-risk, have access to quality after-school programs. The more than 150 chiefs, sheriffs, state's attorneys, and crime survivors who are members of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids *Illinois* call on public officials at the local, state, and federal levels to adopt a plan to close the after-school gap. Fight Crime: Invest in Kids *Illinois* is a strong supporter of the Illinois After-school Initiative's work and recommendations to improve and expand after-school programs in Illinois. It is time to invest in after-school programs that are proven to cut crime and save dollars.

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Source citations and other research available at
http://www.fightcrime.org/il/

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *ILLINOIS*

Launched in 1997, FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *ILLINOIS* is a nonprofit, anti-crime organization led by police chiefs, sheriffs, state's attorneys, and crime survivors. Major funding for its operations is provided by:

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Chicago Community Trust
Woods Fund of Chicago
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
The Harris Foundation
Oppenheimer Family Fund
Relations Foundation
Afterschool Alliance

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *ILLINOIS* is a joint project of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS, which is led by more than 1,500 of the nation's leading crime fighters and crime survivors, and the Illinois Center for Violence Prevention.

Illinois Center for Violence Prevention

The Illinois Center for Violence Prevention was founded in 1992 as a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of interpersonal violence. The Center carries out its mission through public education, networking and coordination, advocacy, technical assistance, evaluation, and research.

Acknowledgments

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *ILLINOIS* would like to thank the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and all the police and sheriff's departments who took the time to gather this data. Without their efforts and support, this report would not have been possible.

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This report was authored by the staff of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS *ILLINOIS*:

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Aisha Cornelius, Program Assistant
Ann Potter Francis, Policy Associate
Lena Parsons, Communications Coordinator

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Source Citations

[1] Data was collected from Bolingbrook, Carbondale, Chicago, Elgin, Moline, Naperville, Normal, Peoria, and Rock Island for 2000, 2001, or 2002 depending on the time period most recently available for each police department. See insert for Carbondale and Normal, which only had victim data that is not presented here. Five other cities provided us with data but we have not presented their results here. For Arlington Heights, there was some confusion over whether each arrest represented one individual arrested at one time. For Aurora, there was no victimization data, which is usually more reliable as to when the crime took place. For the Aurora data on arrests that was presented, the number of arrests was small enough that we did not feel confident that it represented a consistent pattern. If we can obtain more data over more years we will make that data available for Aurora. For Bloomington we found that, like its sister-city Normal, the peak hours for arrests took place in the evening. But the victimization data for juveniles from Normal, which is usually more accurate as to when crimes take place, showed a typical peak in the afternoon hours on school days. We presented that data as likely more accurate as to when crimes by and against juveniles are taking place. Unfortunately we do not have victimization data for Bloomington yet. Data from Decatur and Schaumburg was incomplete for this analysis.

[2] Taggart, R., *Quantum Opportunities Program*, Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, Philadelphia, 1995. See also Lattimore, C.B., et al., The Quantum Opportunities Program, in Elliott, D.S., eds., *Blueprints for Violence Prevention Series*, Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, University of Colorado, Boulder, 1998.

[3] Jones, M.A., Offord, D.R., Reduction of Antisocial Behavior in Poor Children by Nonschool Skill-Development, *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry and Allied Disciplines* 30:737-750, 1989.

[4] Zill, N., Nord, C.W., Loomis, L.S., *Adolescent Time Use, Risky Behavior and Outcomes: An Analysis of National Data*, Westat Inc., Rockville, MD, September 1995.

[5] Baltimore Police Department Office of Planning and Research. *Police Athletic League.* Baltimore Police Department, March 9, 1998.

[6] Schinke, S.P., et al., Boys & Girls Clubs in Public Housing Developments: Prevention Services for Youth at Risk, *Journal of Community Psychology*, OSAP Special Issue, 1992.

[7] Cohen, M.A., *The Monetary Value of Saving a High Risk Youth*, July 1997 (Unpublished, permission for use granted by Professor Cohen).

[8] Taggart, R., *Quantum Opportunities Program*, Philadelphia, 1995, Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America, p. 4.

[9] For a fuller discussion of how quality matters see our national report, *America's After-School Choice: The Prime Time for Juvenile Crime, Or Youth Enrichment and Achievement,* which can be found on our web site, www.fightcrime.org. For an evaluation comparing an enhanced Boys and Girls Club to a traditional club and another existing after-school program see also: Schinke, S.P., Cole, K.C., Poulin, S.R., *Research Report; Thirty Month Data and Process Findings*, Boys and Girls Club of America, December 31, 1998.

[10] U.S. Census Bureau (2000) Sex by Single Years of Age (PCT12). Retrieved July 12, 2002, http://www.census.gov/census2000/states/il.html.

[11] Bureau of Labor Statistics (2000) *Table 4. Families with own children: Employment status of parents by age of youngest child and family type, 2000-01 annual averages.* Retrieved July 15, 2002, http://www.bls.gov/news.release/famee.t04.htm.

[12] Emily McAdams, U.S. Department of Education, correspondence, 2002.

[13] Doris Garrett, Illinois Department of Human Services, correspondence, 2002.

[14] Analysis of data originally supplied by Amy Claessens, Day Care Action Council of Illinois, 2002.

[15] These numbers are estimates based on information currently available. Kids receive after-school services in a variety of ways beyond those mentioned, and the Illinois After-school Initiative Report will provide new data on this when it is released in October 2002.

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